

BURTON, A.A.

DRAWER

CONTEMPORARIES

71.2009.085 03-714

Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

A.A. Burton

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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Department of the Treasury / Internal Revenue Service

Notice of PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Under the authority in Internal Revenue Code section 6331, the property described below has been seized for nonpayment of internal revenue taxes due from Donald E. and Mary L. Webb. The property will be sold at public auction as provided by Internal Revenue Code section 6335 and related regulations.

Date of Sale: March 30, 1984
Time of Sale: 10:00 a.m.
Place of Sale: Front steps of the Garrard County Court House, Lancaster, Kentucky
Title Offered: Only the right, title and interest of Donald E. and Mary L. Webb in and to the property will be offered for sale. If requested, the Internal Revenue Service will furnish information about possible encumbrances, which may be useful in determining the value of the interest being sold.

Description of Property: A house and lot located at 210 North Lexington Street, Lancaster, Kentucky. The house is known as The House of the Seven Gables. It was constructed around 1850 by A.A. Burton, Abraham Lincoln's minister to Bogata. It was the home of William O. Bradley, the first Republican Governor of Kentucky.

(Note: The Internal Revenue Service will pay a finder's fee of three percent to a licensed real estate agent or broker if they register the successful bidder by 10:00 a.m., March 30, 1984.)

Property May Be Inspected At: 210 North Lexington Street, Lancaster, Kentucky

Payment Terms: Deferred payment as follows: 10 percent upon acceptance of the highest bid, the balance in 30 days.

Form of Payment: All payments must be by cash, certified check, cashier's or treasurer's check or by a United States postal, bank, express, or telegraph money order. Make check or money order payable to the Internal Revenue Service.

Name and Title: William M. Redmond, Revenue Officer

Date: March 1, 1984

Address For Information About The Sale: Internal Revenue Service, 1500 Leestown Road, Lexington, Ky. 40505

Phone: (606) 233-2557

Bradley House added to National Register

The Kentucky Heritage Commission has been informed by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., that the Governor William O. Bradley House on Lexington Street in Lancaster, Kentucky, has been accepted for entry on the National Register of Historic Places. This makes the first structure to be so honored in Garrard County.

Listing on the National Register signifies the site to be of special historical, architectural, or archaeological importance. It offers, in addition, protection against adverse action by Federal agencies.

The house was the residence for many years of William O. Bradley (1847-1914), former Governor of Kentucky and U.S.

Senator. A native of Garrard County, Bradley began his law career there in 1861. In 1870 he was elected county attorney, somewhat of a triumph for a Republican in an overwhelmingly Democratic county.

During the next few years Bradley was to make his influence felt with the State and National Republican party. He was four times his party's nominee to the U.S. Senate. He was seven times selected by his party as a delegate at large to the Republican National Convention. In 1880 Bradley made the seconding speech for General Grant, as he did in 1904 for Theodore Roosevelt. Three times Bradley was elected as a member of the Republican

National Committee from Kentucky.

In 1895 Bradley was the first Republican to be elected Governor of Kentucky. Eight years later, after several unsuccessful bids, Bradley was elected the first Republican U.S. Senator from Kentucky. He died while in office in 1914.

Bradley is remembered as a gifted orator and debater and a politician who did much to increase the strength of the Republican party in Kentucky.

The house in Garrard County in which Bradley lived for approximately thirty years is a charming mid-19th century "Gothic" or "Tudor" cottage with individual touches which give it its

distinctive flavor. The window pediments are classical, somewhat oddly combined with the 7 acute-angled gables. There's a slightly projecting two-story window on the right wing with a porch to the left, placed off center so that its right opening does double duty as an entrance.

The whole house—certainly the second story—is swallowed up in roof, unlike Georgian, Federal, or Greek Revival Styles where the wall dominated often to the exclusion of the roof. This is a big house, but the architecture diligently evokes "cottage."

The Kentucky Heritage Commission is delighted that this house of such interest and importance has been so honored. +

Man preserving historic house piece-by-piece

By VICKI STORY STEVENS

Staff Writer

LANCASTER — Preservationists fought unsuccessfully to save the home of Kentucky's first Republican governor from demolition, but now even the man tearing it down says he hates to see it go.

The house, a historic landmark commonly referred to by local residents as the "House of Seven Gables," was once a showplace and home of Gov. William O. Bradley. In the 1930s and '40s, tourists marveled at its seven gables and finely crafted woodwork.

The house was built about 135 years ago by William Burton, South American ambassador under Abraham Lincoln. Legend has it that documents and letters from Lincoln and Burton's wife's fine jewels are still hidden in or about the premises.

"There's supposed to be about \$250,000 in jewels hidden in it, but I doubt that. I'd say the old house was the jewel," says Albert Burkhead, a local minister who purchased the house from Pete and Delores Gleich for \$2,000 and is currently dismantling it. The Gleichs plan to build a new house on the lot.

"I hate to see it torn down," said Burkhead, pastor of the Church

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Staff Photo by Vicki Story Stevens

Albert Burkhead, a Garrard County minister, is tearing down the home of Kentucky's first Republican governor, William O. Bradley, but says

he plans to salvage most of the materials for use in other locations.

Saving historic house

(Continued from Page 1.)

of God at Harmon's Lick. "My wife says I'm foolish, but I just saw this old house one day and I thought, my gosh, somebody'll get in there and beat and bang and tear up everything. There's just too much history in it to see it go for nothing."

For the past month, Burkhead has been carefully taking the house apart brick by brick — all 50,000 or more of them — in hopes of salvaging most of it for use in other locations, including a new home of his own.

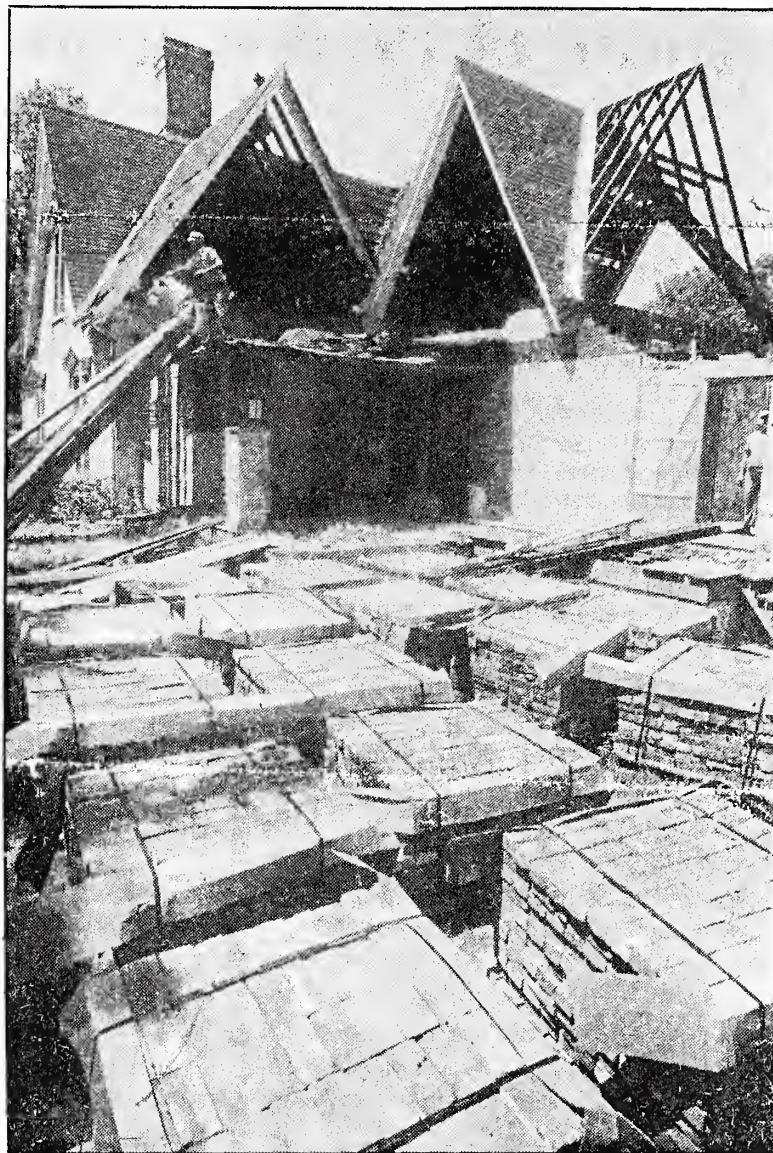
Later this year, he plans to start building a house near Cartersville with many of the materials from the old Bradley house. What he doesn't use himself, he plans to sell.

"I want to use the windows and doors and try to work them back into another house," he says. "It's got too many beautiful materials in it to not be used for anything."

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the Gothic Revival-style house contains a winding walnut staircase, four tall bay windows, five elaborately carved fireplace mantles, and ornate gold decorations on the walls and ceilings.

Burkhead says most of the lumber in the house is yellow poplar of better quality and worth more than that now used in construction. While tearing down the house, he noticed that the wood beams were held together with pegs and that most of the walls were made of brick rather than wood. "It was solid as a jug," he says.

Although once a tourist attraction and inn, the house suffered from neglect and fell into a state of disrepair in recent years, changing ownership five times



Staff Photo by Daniel Price

Workers are tearing down the old Lancaster home brick-by-brick and stacking them on pallets.

within eight years.

Ricky Sparks, a local man, purchased the house last year with intentions of restoring it to its former splendor. He was forced to sell it, however, when the Kentucky Heritage Commission turned down his request for financial assistance.

Estimates for restoration ranged from \$30,000 to \$100,000, depending on who was asked. The Gleichs, who purchased the house from Sparks for close to \$28,000, said the main obstacle to

its restoration was the crumbling brick foundation and the poor condition of its plumbing, heating and electrical systems.

Members of the Garrard County Historical Society wanted to preserve the landmark, which Burkhead says was once part of the underground railroad, but were unable to find a buyer who would restore it.

Burkhead says the house will be gone from the site in another month. "I don't think we'll find any jewels," he says.

Death of historic home may result in 3 new ones

SEPTEMBER 1985

By Ray Cohn

Central Kentucky bureau

LANCASTER — Preservationists lost the battle to save the home of Kentucky's first Republican governor, but the bricks from the 135-year-old house may be used to build three other homes.

Fearing that the demolition of the Gov. William O. Bradley house would also destroy a piece of history, the Rev. Albert Burkhead bought the home and is dismantling the house brick by brick.

"This is one way I know part of it can be preserved," Burkhead, the pastor of Harmon's Lick Church of God, said as he took a short breather from his chores.

Burkhead said he planned to use the bricks to build a house in rural Garrard County. "What my intentions are when I put in a new house is to put some of the Bradley features back in," the minister said. He also hopes to use some of the four tall bay windows.

He said he already sold 21,000

bricks to a Lincoln County man who used them to build a home.

And most of the remaining bricks may be used to build a house that E.J. "Pepe" Gleich, the last owner of the house and the owner of the property on which it is located, plans to construct at the site, Burkhead said.

This is not what preservationists had in mind for the landmark building that local residents called the "House of Seven Gables." But renovation estimates ranged from \$30,000 to \$100,000, and preservationist groups had neither the money nor a buyer willing to

spend that much.

"I hate to see it go down because it's a historical site," Burkhead said.

Local historians say the house was the town's biggest tourist attraction in the 1930s and 1940s. Visitors to Lancaster, a farming community of 3,200, marveled at its seven gables and finely crafted woodwork.

The Gothic-revival-style house on Lexington Street was built in the 1850s by Allen A. Burton, a Lancaster attorney who served as President Abraham Lincoln's minister to Colombia.

Bradley, also a Lancaster attorney, bought the house in 1885 and lived there until 1895, when he became Kentucky's governor. He sold the house in 1908, after becoming a U.S. senator.

The state, years ago, designated the home a historical landmark, and in 1974 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

But the house changed ownership five times in the last eight years, and because of neglect it had such serious

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problems as a cracked foundation, sagging doorways and inadequate plumbing, heating and electrical systems.

Burkhead, who paid \$2,000 for the house, said, "To be honest with you I don't know how come I got into it other than there was a lot of good material in it."

He said he just couldn't let the beautiful house and the history it represented to be torn down without preserving some of it.

Burkhead, 59, is a lifelong Republican and a native of Springfield. He said that in the past he had subsidized his income by working as a carpenter.

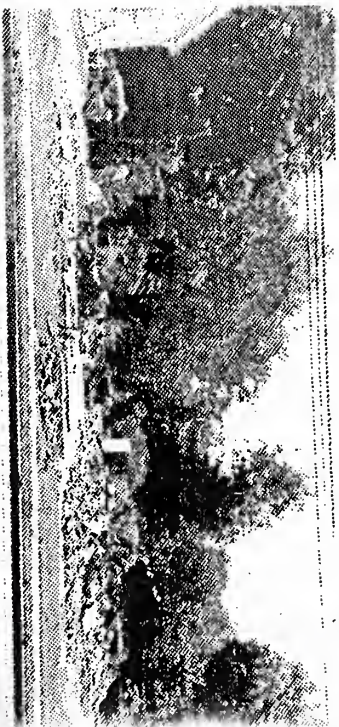
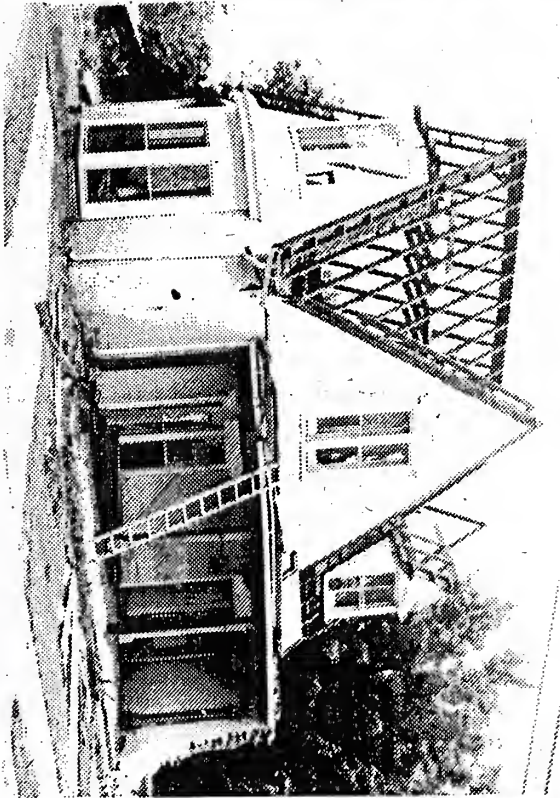
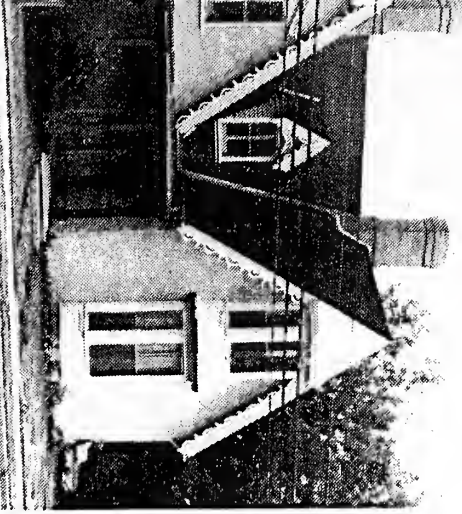
A few friends have helped Burkhead dismantle the house, but he said

he had done the most dangerous work himself.

"We have been on it almost two months, and I hope to get it done within a few days," Burkhead said.

And how has his family reacted? "One of my two sons wanted the mantle out of it," Burkhead said. "And the older son just thought there were a lot of beautiful things in it."

er, Kentucky GARRARD COUNTY NEWS, Thursday, June 27, 1985



Going... GONE

The home of Kentucky's first Republican governor was recently torn down. The home, which was on the historical registry, was torn down when know one offered to move the building from

its original site on Lexington street to another location. Buildings owner Pete Glick said the building was in poor structuraly.



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